10 million hectare through major and medium irrigation projects as well as minor irrigation schemes. At present 166 major, 222 medium and 89 ERM projects are reported to be on-going in various States. Support to the State Government is provided by Government of India through AIBP and other schemes.

Project for linking rivers

†92. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is in touch with the State Government over the projects of linking of rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the projects in respect of which discussions are being held with the State Governments;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of meetings have been held between Gujarat and Maharashtra on the amibitious project of inter-linking of rivers Par-Tapi and Narmada; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has prepared Feasibility Reports (FRs) of 16 links out of 30 identified links under the National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins/areas. The reports prepared by NWDA have been circulated to the concerned State Governments. Also, the State Government officers are invariably invited to all the important meetings e.g. Annual General Meetings of NWDA Society, Governing Body meeting, Technical Advisory Committee meetings etc. A group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) has been constituted in June, 2002 to discuss with the States the issues for arriving at a consensus regarding sharing of surplus water and preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). Five peninsular links namely (i) Ken-Betwa (ii) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (iii) Par-Tapi-Narmada (iv) Damanganga-Pinjal and (v) Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) have been identified as priority links for consensus building between the concerned States. This group has already held nine meetings for consensus building on these priority links. The DPR for one priority link *viz.* Ken- Betwa has been taken up by NWDA after signing of tripartite agreement between the Government of India and the concerned States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on 25.08.2005.

(c) and (d) The Consensus group headed by Chairman, CWC held two meetings on 12.05.2006 and 1.02.2007 for arriving at consensus on Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal links in which the representatives of the Government of Gujarat and the Government of Maharashtra also participated. As agreed in the above meeting held on 1.02.2007, Ministry of Water Resources has sent the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for both the links in April, 2007 to the Government of Maharashtra and the Government of Gujarat for their concurrence.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.